

The Hampden-Sydney Tiger

August 17, 2023

"The Hampden-Sydney student will behave as a gentleman at all times and in all places."

Issue CIII.7

WELCOME, CLASS OF 2027.



DORM RENOVATIONS CONTINUE A LOOK INTO THE COMPANY BEHIND THE WORK

RICHARD D. JONES '25
NEWS EDITOR

For just over a year (and consequently most of the time that I have attended this College), Hampden-Sydney has seen constant dorm renovations. These renovations officially began at the end of the 2021-2022 academic year, shortly before the completion and formal opening of the Pauley Science Center the subsequent fall. According to the College, President Stimpert and the Board of Trustees allocated a "\$43 million bond issue" to these renovations, which promised upgrades, updates, and glitz-ups to four dorm complexes on campus: "the Alphabets, the Carpenter houses, Venable Hall, and Whitehouse."

The company chosen to complete this task was Mesick Cohen Wilson Baker (MCWB) Architects. Based out of Albany, New York, they have completed renovations on multiple presidential estates, such as Monticello, Poplar Forest, Montpelier, Mount Vernon, and Ferry Farm. Moreover, MCWB Architects have renovated several State Capitols, including those of New York, Tennessee, Vermont, and Maryland. This would



be an impressive enough portfolio on its own, but the company also has a storied history with refurbishing and remodeling historical educational buildings as well. A quick perusal of their online portfolio reveals their work with eight other institutions, including the University of Virginia and the College of William and Mary. Perhaps the deciding factor, however, in the hiring of MCWB Architects was their architectural formula. As they state on their website, "Seemingly divergent disciplines, historic preservation and modern design, are remarkably compatible and enhance respective outcomes." This

dual focus on past and future enables the College, for example, to retain the charm that Dabney Cosby put into Venable Hall all those years ago, while also providing that same dorm with modern perks and necessities, like enhanced ventilation. These renovations, while providing the College's dorms with more modern amenities, likely will not threaten the old, brick-and-mortar style that sets Hampden-Sydney apart from other institutions. This dual focus also begs the question: "How long will this all take to finish?" Overall, the project is projected to take around "three to four years," according to the

College. Unfortunately, completion dates for individual dorms are relatively up in the air. Renovation of the Alphabet dorms was completed this previous academic year, while the renovation of Venable Hall has been underway since the very beginning. Although Dean Schrader could not be reached for comment on renovation updates, it is rumored that the work on Venable Hall will be completed by the spring semester. To my knowledge, work has not yet begun on either the Carpenter houses or Whitehouse, the two dorms that are traditionally utilized to house incoming freshmen.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

To the Hampden-Sydney College Class of 2027:

Welcome to Hampden-Sydney and the very special brotherhood of Hampden-Sydney men! A few weeks ago, I sent you my thoughts on how you can have a great start here and how you can make the most of your college career, and I'm taking this opportunity to share a summary of that communication. (It is also good advice for any of our returning sophomores, juniors, and seniors who may be reading this article!)

Find mentors. Take advantage of the many opportunities you have here for personal connections with faculty and staff members, fellow students, and alumni, and find one or more mentors. They will provide good advice on how to make the most of your time here, how to think about your future, and how to access resources and prepare yourself to compete for jobs or graduate programs.

Find your friends and groups. Introduce yourself to others. Meet the guys you live with and the guys in your classes. Join people you don't know at the Pannill

Commons and ask others to join you. Get to know people who are different from you, and find friends who bring out your best and who encourage you to grow and develop in positive ways. Do the same for others. Explore our many student clubs and organizations and join groups that interest you.

Challenge yourself to learn, grow, and try new things. Use your four years at Hampden-Sydney to become the man you want to be. Explore new ideas, interests, and opportunities. Plan now for summer internships. Pursue a research project with a professor in an area of interest. And, plan now to study off campus or abroad—no college experience will be as life-changing.

Recommended reading. Daniel Willingham's *Outsmart Your Brain: Why Learning Is Hard and How You Can Make It Easy* will help you navigate college. Read it all at once or use it as a reference book. The "how to" sections are short and easy to read and the author offers many practical tips, including

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Letters to the Freshman Class

The Hampden-Sydney Tiger

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by J. B. Wall '19

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The Hampden-Sydney Tiger is a student newspaper serving the community of Hampden-Sydney and operating independently of the College. *The Tiger* is printed biweekly by *The Farmville Herald*.

The views expressed in the Hampden-Sydney Tiger are those of their authors and do not reflect the official stance of The Tiger.

We accept submissions in the form of letters or guest columns. Brevity is encouraged. Interested writers, cartoonists, and photographers can send us an e-mail at newspaper@hsc.edu.

PRESIDENT, CONT'D

“How to Read Difficult Books,” “How to Study for Exams,” “How to Take Tests,” “How to Stay Focused,” and “How to Gain Self-Confidence as a Learner.”

Many paths through Hampden-Sydney. Whether you have arrived here with a career objective in mind or you are less certain about a career objective and college major, you can use the resources Hampden-Sydney offers to find your path and thrive. Get off to a great start by sharing your aspirations and plans

with your academic advisor and talking with our Career Center professionals about the wide array of career fields that are available to college graduates. Plan to get internships that will help explore your interests or redirect you to new ones.

Above all, I wish you all the best as you start the educational adventure of a lifetime. I look forward to getting acquainted with you and seeing all you will accomplish during these next four years.

Gentlemen,

To the returning members of the Hampden-Sydney community, and especially to the class of 2027, I would like to welcome each of you to the 2023-2024 academic year.

This new year brings with it much excitement for the challenges and accomplishments to come. For the underclassmen, the balance of social life, athletics, and academics stands as the ultimate test. For upperclassmen, capstone courses, job applications, interviews, and the looming notion that we are “getting old” seems relevant now more than ever. But that is college, and that is part of life. We will face challenges far beyond our time spent on this hill. How we deal with them and deal with adversity is up to us.

Hampden-Sydney is an incredibly special place that truly does form “good men and good citizens.” We are taught the necessary skills to take on the world as leaders and intellectuals. We learn to make decisions based on reason not speculation. We learn to treat one another with honesty and respect. We began this journey when we pledged to uphold the Honor Code of our College.

To the class of 2027 Tigers, when you signed your name to the Honor Code, you became a part of something far bigger than yourself. You have etched your name into history alongside renowned men and leaders who have come before you. To the returning Tigers, teach the class of 2027 how a Hampden-Sydney man should always act. Do this through the example you set on campus. While there are sure to be highs and lows throughout the academic year, remember always that we are in this together, as brothers of Hampden-Sydney College.

Roll Tigs,

Tommy Bishop 24'
Student Body President

Brothers,

First, I would like to welcome all the new and returning students to the Hill. To the freshman, Hampden-Sydney is full of opportunity, especially during the first weeks of freshman year. Seize these opportunities. College is a time to meet new people, socialize, and enjoy newly found freedoms. Many of the friends you make during your first year will stick by you until graduation and beyond. Engage with your courses both in the classroom and late at night in the library. Get to know your professors; they are a valuable resource and are always willing to help. Get involved in extracurriculars, whether it is sports, clubs, outdoor activities, or working with Student Government. Finally, remember to be your brother's keeper. Not only remind your brothers of the value of our Honor Code but also push them to become better men and hope that they will push you.

“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” (Proverbs 27:17)

As the 104th Chairman, I want to share information about the Student Senate. The Hampden-Sydney Student Senate is the legislative branch of the student government as defined by the Key. In this role, the Senate acts on behalf of the student body by passing legislation to effect positive change across campus. The Senate has legislative jurisdiction over parts of student campus life through bills and resolutions. However, the greatest involvement of the Senate is through the approval of clubs and organizations on campus and making sure they serve the college's mission. Each semester, the Senate reviews and recommends changes to the budget presented by the Student Finance Board. Finally, the Senate serves as a liaison between students and faculty through town halls, regular communication with the Office of Student Affairs, and hosting weekly meetings that are open to the public. Each class elects three peers to serve as their representatives in the Senate. Early in the year, freshmen will have the opportunity to run for a Student Government position in either the Senate, CAC, or Honor Court. The Student Senate will also host a special election for the vacancy in the senior class representation.

Wishing you all a productive and fulfilling year ahead.

Regards,
Drew Blankenship '25
Student Senate Chairman

Welcome,

To the new and returning men of Hampden-Sydney, it is the time of opportunity. The opportunity has come to resume our efforts for success; our path to being the Good Men and Good Citizens our beloved Hill encourages us to be. This hill is the environment in which uncommon men like ourselves build uncommon successes, uncommon edict, and uncommon brotherhood. The Hampden-Sydney man is one of honor, truth, dedication, and persistence. The nature of our Brotherhood is uncommon but mustn't be underestimated. We all must go forth in this coming school year with our heads high, and our dedication to honoring those before, among, and after us that too believe in the mission of Hampden-Sydney College.

Respectfully,

J.C. McCoy '25
Student Body Secretary Treasurer

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

DANIEL NIVENS '24
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Several years ago, a friend of mine who went on to become the valedictorian of his class at Hampden-Sydney excoriated me for trying to do too much on campus. In doing so, he framed what we are all doing here as college students in a way that I had never thought of: being a student is a full-time job. Not only is it a full-time job, it's quite a terrible arrangement: you actually pay for the privilege of working night and day with only the breaks that you arrange for yourself. Knowing that each and every moment of class time costs you money, he said, he couldn't

really see how anyone could stomach wasting a second. I've thought about that conceptualization a lot in four years, and I can't say that I've always taken his advice. I have had quite a few days of Instagram doomscrolling over essay writing or a few minutes extra sleep over lecture-listening. I've turned in an assignment knowing that it was half-baked, and I've calculated exactly what grade I needed to get on the final to keep my GPA far too many times. I'm sure many people who work full-time jobs do similar sorts of corner cutting. I don't think my friend meant that every waking moment must be de-

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Gentlemen of the Class of 2027,

You just made one of the most important decisions of your life. You've taken a leap of faith and entered a process that's turned boys into men for 248 years. I speak for the rest of my brothers when I say thank you for trusting in us. We are glad you are here.

I want to share a few lessons that I have learned during my time here.

- Guard your integrity with your life.** Integrity means a lot in this community. When you say something, mean it. Take accountability of everything that happens to you and because of you. Always remember that as a Hampden-Sydney man, you must own your actions whether they are good or bad. Once you lose your integrity, it is very hard to get it back. We will give you the tools, but ultimately it is up to you to decide to be a good man and good citizen.
- People are everything here.** The men and faculty you meet today will shape the you of tomorrow. Cultivate good friends and take care of everyone you meet. Treat everyone with respect - the world is small. At the end of the day, these are the people that you will cherish for a lifetime.
- Be open-minded and try new things.** “You better find a really good reason to say no,” an alumnus told me before I came. He meant that I shouldn't close myself off to new things. Neither should you. Take advantage of everything the College has to offer, and there will never be a dull moment.
- You carve your own fate.** Nobody will hand you a successful career and a good life. You must earn it every single day.
- Work hard, then play hard - within reason.** Enough said.

Hampden-Sydney College is a brotherhood like no other. It will provide you with the best days of your life. But now you owe it something back. Remember to always be there for your brothers. You will be there for their highs and lows - enjoy the good times and be there during the bad times. Protect them when they are weak, then lift them up. However, you must be willing to hold them accountable - iron sharpens iron. You might see one of your friends who's had too many try to get in a vehicle and drive. You may see people on the verge of cheating. You may see someone trying to take advantage of a guest at a party. Recognize these moments and do the right thing.

Most of becoming a man is developing your own character. Character is doing the right thing whether or not someone is watching. Keep this thought with you.

Finally, I want to leave you with a quote to mull over. “Waste no more time arguing about what a good man should be. Be one.” - Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*.

Don't be a stranger.

Respectfully,

Greyson Jack Hurley '24
Student Court Chairman

First off, Welcome to the Hill, Gentlemen.

Do not take this time for granted, because it sure does fly by. I am excited to be your College Activities Council (CAC) Chairman and look forward to a great year with you all.

In the past, the CAC seemed to be overlooked, as many people were unsure of what we really did. This year, I would like to focus on the big picture events; ones that get the entire campus involved. When I was elected last semester, my main goal was to shock and restock all of the ponds on campus. Fishing is a vital part of the Hampden Sydney Community, yet it has been on a decline in recent years. On top of that, we are looking to start a Bluegrass Festival to go along with our Greek Week and Homecoming shows. The Lake Chalgrove stage has still not been used, and I would love to host as many events as possible at that location.

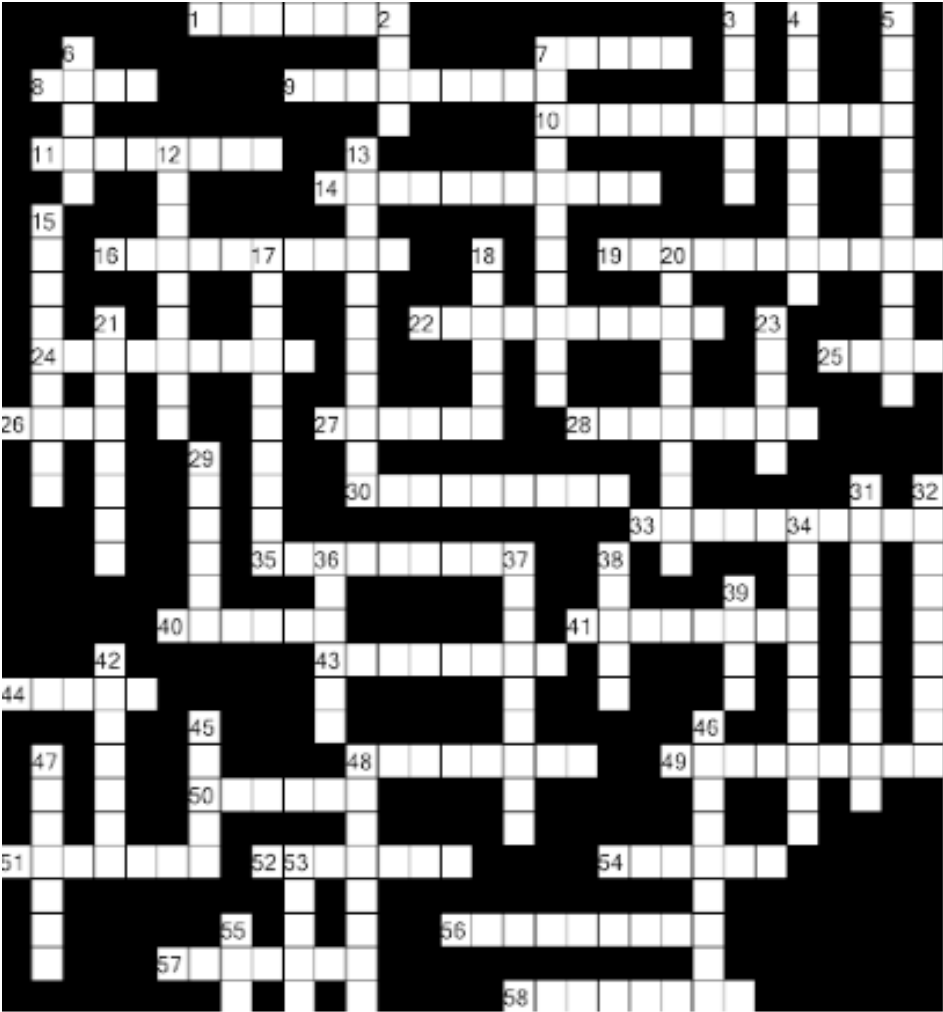
As many of you will come to find out, Tiger gamedays are some of the most enjoyable times you will have on the Hill, and we are looking to do an event with Sweetbriar College for a home football game. On top of that, expect to see fishing, golf, poker, pool, and ping pong tournaments in the TI, as well as trivia and karaoke. All these events have some great prizes, from Yeti coolers to flat screen tv's.

We have some great guys on the CAC, from Small Tournament Directors, to Tiger Inn Event Coordinators, and they will all play a huge role in the CAC's success. Your CAC members for the 2023-2024 academic year are William Harrison '24, John Alexander '24, Nate Kania '24, Jaron Conception '24, Connor Kitson '25, Charles Adams '25, O'Farrell Wright '25, Brandon Finch '26, Isaac Drummond '26, and Russell Hager '26. If you are interested in running for a position, or have any questions or suggestions, feel free to reach out to any of us. I look forward to seeing you on campus.

Roll Tigers.
William Harrison '24
College Activites Council Chairman

LIFE

CROSSWORD



My father always told me to look up the definitions of words that I came across as I was reading so that I could “improve my lexicon.” After ~20 years, I figure it might be time to listen to him. To force myself to follow through, I have decided to make my crosswords from words that I come across in certain books. These are works of literature that I find personally entertaining... or that I am forced to read by our benevolent dictators. Point is, we are going to learn a heck of a lot of fancy, new words from these crosswords.

This issue’s crossword comes from Pulitzer Prize-winning author Herman Wouk’s *Don’t Stop the Carnival*, a tale that takes you on an emotional rollercoaster through the debauchery, lechery, and chicanery of the fictional Caribbean island of Kinja.

- Across
1. Walking daintily

7. A durable twilled woolen or worsted fabric

8. A gentle accent

9. A comically exaggerated imitation

10. Financially re-
- warding, lucrative

11. An unbroken view of an entire region

14. Characterized by straight lines

16. Wasteful project

19. Impossible to understand
22. Cooked or served with Parmesan

24. Unable to think or feel

25. Stem or gloomy

26. Limp, long, and straight

27. Playful or hu-

RICHARD D. JONES ‘25

CRUCIVERBALIST

- morous

28. Heavy-duty waterproof cloth

30. Sleepy or drowsy

33. Light mockery or banter

35. Slow and gloomy

40. A showy, but worthless, item

41. Reserved in speech

43. Waste or debris of any kind

44. Awful-smelling

48. Fine wool

49. Syrup used in a Tequila Sunrise

50. An absence of willpower (psychiatry)

51. Childishly bad-tempered

52. A complete suit of armor

54. Reserved, modest, and shy

56. Having a tendency to be easily angered

57. Ladies’ room

58. Nightclub entertainment
- Down
2. Superficial brilliance

3. Hot like the Sahara

4. The lowest female singing voice

5. Turning one’s nose up at others

6. A long sofa sans back

7. A popular restaurant chain in New York and a great movie

12. A charming storyteller

13. Sweet or musical

15. Someone who cheats at cards

17. Obedient to a servile degree

18. Sullen and ill-tempered

20. Having displaced beats or accents

21. Tightly gathered into wrinkles

23. A horrible, no good, very bad smell

29. A bright or deep red color

31. Mystical, cultish

32. To disparage or belittle

34. Tropical American shrub

36. Cheap and gaudy finery

37. Shining brightly, radiant (literature)

38. Petals around flowers

39. Darkness or think mist

42. Having a pleasantly sharp taste

45. The noun form of splash

46. Eager to argue or fight

47. A small dining room

48. Coaxing or flattery

53. Jargon or slang

THE HISTORY CORNER:

World War in the Lower 48

WYATT THORNTON ‘26

COPY EDITOR

When one thinks of America’s involvement in the Second World War, the usual areas of knowledge are of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the landings on Normandy during D-Day, and the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. But during the nearly four years in which the U.S. was involved in the Second World War, the United States would be attacked multiple times after Pearl Harbor. While most of these attacks were of minor significance during the war, the psychological impact they had certainly was not. Some readers may know of the 1942 Japanese invasion of the islands of Kiska and Attu in the Alutian chain, a part of what was then the Territory of Alaska. The focus of this article, however, will be on the lesser-known Japanese submarine bombardments of the U.S. West

coast that occurred that same year. In February of 1942, the allies were not doing very well in the Pacific theater. Still reeling from the attack on Pearl Harbor and the swift Japanese invasions of various countries and colonies, the allies were on their back foot. It was during this time that the Japanese submarine I-17 would do something that rarely happened to the U.S. during wartime. On February 23, 1942 at around 7 PM, the submarine surfaced off the coast of southern California, near Santa Barbara. Hoping to devastate the Ellwood Oil Fields in that area, the submarine proceeded to fire 12 to 25 rounds at the area before disappearing back into the California waters. While there was little damage done and no casualties from the attack, it did succeed in causing widespread panic among citizens along the West Coast. A few months

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THE RHETORIC STUDIO: USE IT!

GEORGE LANGHAMMER ‘24

LIFE EDITOR

The Rhetoric studio, located at the bottom of Pannill Commons, sits at the juncture of social life and academia. At its core, the space was designed to foster collaboration between students and faculty, being the home of The Rhetoric Department and The Tiger. However, one of the best campus resources for students also calls this space home, The Rhetoric Studio Consultants. Consultants are your fellow peers who are there to tutor students on any project that involves communication. They have taken every course you will take over the next four years and provide students with insights into the processes and procedures taught in introductory and advanced courses. Hampden-Sydney is unique in that our curriculum heavily emphasizes why we do things in addition to how. I liken it to the phrase, “Give a man a fish, and you

feed him for a day; teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime.” The training consultants receive focuses on long-term outcomes rather than simply doing the work for you. For any writing, speaking, or audio/visual assignment, consultants work with students so they become better writers and speakers by the end of a session. **There are appointments available from Sunday to Thursday with consultants who are eager and willing to help wherever you are in the creative process.** But why is this a recommendation from the Honor Court? It is incredibly challenging to succeed at Hampden-Sydney if you don’t understand the processes behind the assignments. Furthermore, it has been a reoccurring theme that when a student gets in trouble for plagiarism, the first defense is, “I didn’t have help.” Plagiarism, which is lying, cheating, and stealing, is a personal choice, and

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SPOILER ALERTS

NEVER SPOIL *AND HOW*

I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING

AND LOVE THE TIGER

DANIEL NIVENS ‘24

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

To those of you who know me, you probably know that I am quite terrible at watching movies. Chances are if you ever ask me “Have you seen this movie?”, the answer is no. So, in an effort to make myself watch some movies, I am writing this column. In every issue of The Tiger, I will be writing a non-spoiler review of an old movie that I had never seen. These movies could be a decade old; they could be five decades old. The moral of the story is that spoiler alerts never spoil.

To begin a new year, I want to make a promise to you all: this newspaper will never threaten the integrity of your bodily fluids. We do not deal with comics, and if we did, we wouldn’t tell you. I can also assure you that when the editorial team meets in

the War Room, the room is only slightly smoke-filled. Welcome to a new year! Please ignore my incoherent ramblings—none of it will make sense if you haven’t seen this week’s movie, *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*. Released in 1964 and considered one of Stanley Kubrick’s best, *Dr. Strangelove* has had such a large impact on the culture that there are references that I make daily without knowing it. Set during the Cold War, the movie follows a US commander who goes mad and orders a preemptive nuclear strike on the Soviet Union. The rest of the movie is set around the totally serious and entirely competent US and USSR responses to the crisis. I know almost nothing about black and white film

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SPORTS

GREAT DAY FOR TIGER BALL

TIGER TAILGATING ESSENTIALS

BRANDON FINCH '26
STAFF WRITER

Although this summer is coming to a close, this upcoming academic year is sure to bring excitement for all those new and old returning to the Hill. Dropping temperatures this fall indicate much more than getting out your

winter clothes, however. Outside the realm of academics, there is a transition within the world of sports. Fall season means football season; football season means tailgating. At Hampden-Sydney College, football and tailgating have played an important role in our culture for as long as many

students and alumni can remember. For the new brothers arriving in the Class of '27 reading this who are unfamiliar with what I am talking about, fear not; I am here to help. This article is designed to make YOU and YOUR tailgate spot the most popular place in the student or founders' lot alike.

Step 1: Have food.

The first item to mention, the most significant, is food. Food quite literally will save your life. Being able to cook food during home games is the greatest thing you can add to your repertoire as a Hampden-Sydney man. Adding a grill or smoker to any tailgate is a quick way to make a world of difference. The Pitmaster's Society, a barbecue club operated by rising senior Will Krueger '24, immediately became popular at tailgates for this exact reason. Smoked meats and delicious pre-game snacks were offered and sold by this club last year. Instead of paying or waiting for someone to make you something, why not make your own? You will become the man of the hour if you can cook up something good for you, your buddies, or maybe even that Longwood girl you are interested in. Even if you do not own a grill or smoker Walmart is only down the road. At the very least, go get you some snacks.

Step #2: Have storage for Step #1.

On the subject of food, we are met with the second tailgating essential. You now have something to eat, but where should you put it to save for later? Having a place to keep food and drinks is crucial to any successful tailgate. Nobody likes warm beer and rotten food. Instead of throwing stuff away, a cooler can be the solution to this dilemma. As a true Hampden-Sydney man, I'd recommend a YETI. You should have a YETI cooler because of its top-tier reliability and to support one of our alumni. For those who might be unaware, YETI's Senior Vice President of Sales is a Hampden-Sydney man himself. Kirk Zambetti '98 is a home-grown product of ours. Let's support our alumni the same way we support our Tigers.

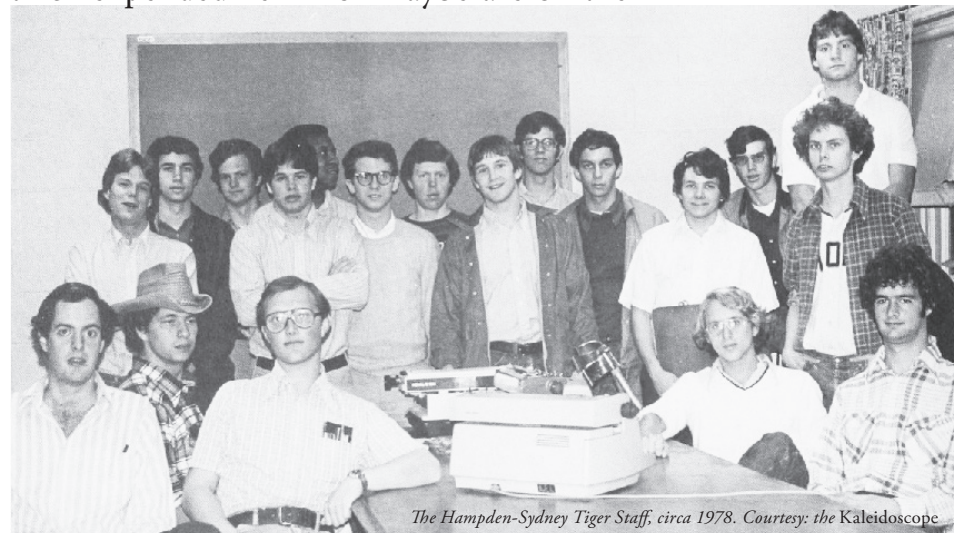
Step #3: Dress right

Last but not least, a Hampden-Sydney tailgate would not be the same without the proper game-day attire. Dress right! A Hampden-Sydney man always looks good for every occasion; make sure you follow through with that sentiment. While students back in the early 1900s might have worn a suit and tie to a game, most students now wear polos with our crest on them. Even if you do not own a polo (or a suit for that matter), you can't go wrong with one of the many free H-SC t-shirts given out to students either. Showing Tiger pride allows one to demonstrate enthusiasm for the game without having to say too much. Words can be loud, but the t-shirts Mrs. Renae gives out every year are much louder. As long as you have some school spirit on before leaving your dorm room, you'll be more than alright.

If you have not picked up on it, tailgating is an important part of our Hampden-Sydney culture that makes the Hill unique. Not every college has a group of individuals who devote themselves so religiously to supporting their teams. Due to this expended en-

ergy, games on our campus feel electric. Whether you're a player, a current student, a graduated alumnus, or a guest of the College, nobody can resist cheering for the Tigers at one of our home games. If you have not yet been in attendance, or maybe are on the

fence about it, allow me to be the first to offer you some encouragement. Once you go to a Hampden-Sydney home game, you will never want to miss another one. Hopefully, my list of essentials helped. Let the good times roll, and ROLL TIGERS!



The Hampden-Sydney Tiger Staff, circa 1978. Courtesy: the Kaleidoscope

Join the team.

Write for *The Tiger*.

Contact newspaper@hsc.edu for more information.

FEATURE: CATCHING UP WITH JAMAHDLA WHITBY

DANNY STACHOWSKI '25
SPORTS EDITOR

Photo Courtesy of hscathletics.com



Although he did not have a breakout year coming into college, Jamahdia Whitby showed us why it's all about how you finish rather than how you start. After being named Jamestown High School's offensive MVP in 2020 his senior year, we would see some unfortunate regression out of our soon-to-be lanky wide receiver. He led his high school team in receiving yards and touchdown receptions that season but did not see the field much after that in college.

Jamahdia did not play in a single game his freshman year on the Hill and only managed to play in 5 games his sophomore year. In his junior year, however, the 6'4" Williamsburg native played his heart out in an aggregate of 10 games. In those 10 games last year, he managed to lead the Tigers in total touchdown receptions (7) and claimed the title of being the 4th-best for total receiving yards (365) on the Tiger's offense. After witnessing #81 burst onto the scene last year, only time will tell what he might have in store for us this season as an

encore. Our beloved Tigers only get one more year with Jamahdia - hopefully, they make it count.

After catching up with Jamahdia over the summer, here were some highlights from our interview:

What part of the game do you love the most?
"I love the competitiveness of the game. There is nothing like beating a guy across from you especially when you know he's trying his hardest."

Considering all of your ups and downs, what keeps you motivated?
"Having to be the first of many things in my family. I'm a first-generation college student and the first person in the family to be a col-

lege athlete. I want to make my parents proud by being the best version of myself on the field and in the classroom.

Any advice to a freshman, athlete and/or non-athlete?
"The transition from high school to college might not be smooth sailing, but give it time. Approaching each day as a new opportunity to learn and get better. That will help tremendously."

Why not another sport? Why play football?
"Growing up I loved watching the NFL and college football. I wanted to be just like those players one day. I started by playing backyard football and enjoyed it a lot so then I began organized football when I was 7 years old."

SAME SHO, DIFFERENT SEASON

PETER TARSOVICH '26
STAFF WRITER



Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Welcome, Class of 2027, to Hampden-Sydney College, and to the rest of the returning classes, welcome back! My name is Peter Tarsovich, and I am an avid baseball fan and will be writing about Major League Baseball during this semester. Enough with introductions. This 2023 season of Major League Baseball has been nothing short of exciting, whether that be the tightly knit races in both the American and National League Wild Card races or the many blockbuster deals of the trade deadline. One of the most predictable yet unpredictable things this season has been the once again historic play of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim's own Shohei Ohtani. While Ohtani's pitching statistics may have taken a dip since his last season,

Ohtani has had a resurgence at the plate and has put himself in a position to win the batting triple crown (leading the league in batting average, homeruns, and runs batted in). After being slightly overshadowed last year due to Aaron Judge's record setting 62 homerun season, Ohtani has regained control as the face of baseball and quite possibly one of the best players in the history of this sport. At the time of writing this article, Ohtani has a Major League leading 8.6 wins above replacement, 40 home runs, 7 triples, 40 walks, and is also

89% better than the average MLB hitter. On the mound, Ohtani has a sub 3.30 earned run average, 160 strikeouts and a 9-5 record to his name. Almost every day Ohtani plays he sets a feat that the game of baseball hasn't seen in its entire history. On the 27th of July in a two-game doubleheader, Ohtani threw an 8-strikeout complete-game shutout against the Detroit Tigers in the first game and then proceeded to hit two homeruns in the second game of the doubleheader. Put simply, Shohei Ohtani is a

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THE PEANUT GALLERY

THREE-POINTERS FROM MR. SHOTWELL

CARTER SHOTWELL
GUEST WRITER-COUNSELOR

Welcome to college! In each issue of *The Tiger*, I suggest advice for achieving your academic goals. I'll leave that for the next issue. Today I want to offer my thoughts on approaching this new experience. Likely, today seemed impossibly far away until all of a sudden, it wasn't. You've taken a big stride into adulthood, and there's no telling what you'll find here. All I can say for sure is that you will leave this place changed. Here are three pointers for welcoming the experience.

Embrace Discomfort: College is a time of growth, and growth often comes from discomfort. Introduce yourself even when you'd rather retreat into your hoodie. Find some fun on campus even when you'd rather go home for the weekend to sleep in your childhood bed. Think of it like

trying pineapple on pizza for the first time; it might sound weird, and you might hate it, but hey, it could be your next favorite thing! College is basically a buffet of bizarre toppings waiting for you to taste. I double dare you to eat it!

DIY before you buy: Not only will you save money by trying to make/fix things yourself, but you'll learn a lot about solving grown up problems along the way. Imagine you're about to drop \$50 on a fancy wall poster, but then you think, "Hey, why not just make my own masterpiece?" Next thing you know, you and your new friends are covered in glitter, paint, and maybe some questionable artistic choices. But that's the fun of it! College is the perfect time to channel your inner MacGyver. And if all else fails, there's always duct tape!

Give it time. Even if you've spent months crossing off the days

until move-in, the transition to college can still be tough. A lot changes in a very short period of time, and you won't feel ready for all of it. Remember that first time you tried to cook and ended up with a kitchen full of smoke? Or when you attempted to do laundry and turned all your whites pink? College can feel a bit like that sometimes. But just like you eventually mastered the art of not burning toast, you'll get the hang of this too. So when you're feeling overwhelmed, take a deep breath, laugh at the mishaps, and remind yourself that every college legend started with a few epic fails. Keep going, Tiger!

Mr. Shotwell works in the Office of Academic Success. If your scholastic game is off, he can help you get on track. Email cshotwell@hsc.edu to book an appointment.

OPINION: FINDING YOUR WAY

JOHN C. HAYNES '26
OPINION EDITOR

From when I began writing this article, it has been 359 days since I first arrived at Hampden-Sydney College as a student. Time is, and always has been, difficult for me to grapple with. This particular number is hard to digest. In the time since, it feels like I have made many memories. Some days, those memories feel fleeting and distant, like the traces of an early childhood memory. Other days, those memories feel as though they occurred in the recent past, perhaps merely weeks ago, when in reality, these memories occurred nearly a year ago. I remember meeting friends—friends it feels I have spent a whole lifetime with—as if the meeting were just a weekend ago. College life will suck you away, dear freshman. College life will become a spiral of long days and fast nights all crammed together into short years. My dear freshman, I do not let this idea scare you—if you are indeed scared. It is a slow process, but with some help you shall surely integrate, and your memories will perhaps be clearer than mine.

Hampden-Sydney is a school of nine-hundred. Dear freshman, I'm sure this is a fact you're well aware of. Perhaps it even was a selling point for you. Small classes and personal teachers seem to be all the rage among middle-class families, striving for their children to stand out. Despite our size, Hampden-Sydney is a social college. This social nature may be, in fact, due to our size. We are a tight community of young men nestled into rural Prince Edward County. Day-to-day socialization on campus will not be difficult. It is common to be met with a smile and a wave by a stranger. If one does not provide a smile or wave, I recommend you smile and wave yourself. Small interactions are everywhere. However, the more difficult task is finding your

group. Sydney, despite being a community, often has its own little social cliques. Each fraternity may be its own faction; each club may have an entire friend group surrounding it. Sometimes, this reaches a Disney Channel high-school rom-com level of pettiness. However, factionalism will be something that one must face at Sydney.

Finding my group perhaps took longer than most. When I first arrived at Hampden-Sydney, some of the first words out of the mouth of my roommate were, "So, are you gonna rush?" I was confused by this, as I had never heard the term 'rush' before. To you, my dear freshman, this may be laughable. In hindsight, I should've known what 'rush' meant going in. Hopefully, you get the idea that I wasn't—and still am not—a frat bro. I quickly found that many of my dorm-hall peers were going in that direction. For the first few weeks of school, I was very lonely. I am naturally shy, having been previously diagnosed with a social anxiety disorder. Despite my symptoms having much improved since the COVID-era, I still depend on people initiating interactions with me before I can open up. With my living situation, I isolated myself early on. I didn't hate—or even dislike—my dormmates. There simply existed a social barrier I could not break through because they weren't my group. Due to being shy, I could not go around that barrier and find a different group. I had to naturally stumble into mine. Dear freshman, do not do as I do, instead do as I say.

Dear freshman, it may take you time to find your group. That is okay. We all can be naturally shy or just unable to roll with the crowd we've been placed into. It is also okay to roll with the crowd. If the booming night life of the Circle is what you crave, then I have no reason to stop you. We are Hampden-Sydney brothers. Part of that promise is to

support and uphold each other no matter our background, no matter our personality, and no matter our interests. This community will foster you for good and bad. For that reason, it is good to find an upperclassman mentor. With the many clubs and opportunities Hampden-Sydney provides, it will not be difficult to find upperclassmen who share your interests. It took me far too long before I felt comfortable enough around the upperclassmen to entrench myself, and then it took even longer to find an outright mentor. Do not completely depend on this upperclassman to navigate socially, but an upperclassman mentor—whether the attachment be intentional or unintentional—will be a good jumping off point. You will have a vital aid in navigating the wider world of Hampden-Sydney.

My dear freshman, once you get to know the campus, it becomes all the more easy to find your people. It is best to keep an open mindset though. You may develop a friend group, but don't let that friend group be the be-all and end-all. Sydney is a campus of friendly faces. Be able to enjoy the company of those others, and don't tie yourself down in the petty factionalism that so often holds our school down. In fact, it may be important to transcend that factionalism. It is often best to serve the greater good of our community. My natural superior, an upperclassman whom I shall dare not name, often expresses the virtues of charity and local community service. Whether that be volunteering for the HSVFD or consoling a friend late at night, our proudest achievements go beyond what is on-campus. I have not mastered this transcendence, and still seek to break out of our campus bubble. "Farm Vegas" is more than just a small town, it's a community of people with their own unique personalities. Get to know your neigh-

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TIGER TALES

A STUDENT TALE

JONATHAN COLEMAN '26
STAFF WRITER

Once upon a time, there was a guy who wanted to go to college. He checked out a lot of schools, and yet one in particular stood out to him: Hampden-Sydney College, way out in the middle of nowhere in rural Farmville, Virginia.

He couldn't say for sure why he was so drawn to Hampden-Sydney. Maybe it was the location, with all its beautiful natural scenery. Maybe it was the welcoming environment that all the students and professors collaborated to create. Maybe it was the Honor Code and the

quality of the campus culture. Maybe it was some combination of all that, or maybe it was something else entirely. Either way, it was clear to the young man that there was only one place he wanted to study for the next four years.

And once he finally started his freshman year, he saw no reason to regret his choice. Sure, it was strange being away from his family at first, and sometimes it felt a little too daunting to try and make new friends. But the guy soon discovered that the true beauty of Hampden-Sydney is the way it allows each student to grow at their own pace. Between the class-

es, the clubs, and the town, there was always something to do for introverts and extroverts alike.

Of course, it wasn't all fun and games all the time. There were classes to attend, homework to complete, and exams to prep for. And that was without all the pressure that trying to choose a major and career would bring. But the young man kept pushing forward, and he learned how to use his flexible schedule to his advantage. By managing his time well and keeping track of deadlines, he could knock out all his responsibilities and still have plenty of time for relaxation.

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Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

THE BACK PAGE

STRANGELOVE, CONT'D

techniques, but I enjoyed the visual experience. Unlike some older movies, at no point did I find myself distracted by some odd choice with camera angle or sound design. The only part that is really noticeable in terms of outdated technique is any scene involving the plane flying. The acting is spot on and hilarious. The characters are brilliant caricatures of pretty much every type of person who works for the government, and the actor's delivery is deadpan and beautiful. The humor will not be for everyone, but the fact that at points the movie delivers itself as serious while any level of thought reveals the satire cracks me up. Overall, *Dr. Strangelove* is probably my favorite film I've seen from this era. I highly recommend it, and it might even make some of us feel better that at least some people in the 60's thought that their government was full of idiots, too. *Dr. Strangelove* earns a solid 95%.

TIGER TALES, CONT'D

By the end of his first semester, he had already integrated himself into college life better than he had ever expected himself to. He had joined several organizations that focused on his personal interests, and he had made friends with dozens of his fellow students from all grade levels. His professors and advisors worked with him to ensure he got the most out of his four-year experience. Sometimes it seemed like there was no opportunity the school offered that would be out of reach for him so long as he was willing to work for it. His second semester proved to be no different. When he went on break for winter and summer, he spent his time counting down the days until he could return again. He knew it was probably cliché, but he really did feel that way. Hampden-Sydney stirred something in him that few other places ever had. He couldn't wait to see what the next four years had in store for him. Well, guess what, folks? That guy was me. And hopefully, if you give this school a chance, that guy can be you, too.

SHO, CONT'D

baseball unicorn, and sports fans everywhere should be happy to watch him play. While this may be another year Ohtani and the Angels miss out on the playoffs, it will be interesting to see how many millions teams will throw at him this offseason.

LETTER FROM EDITOR, CONT'D

voted to schoolwork; I think we would all be missing quite a bit from this special place if we took that particular flavor of advice, and knowing my friend, he didn't live that way. I think what he meant was that being a student at Hampden-Sydney ought to mean setting your academics first. It seems a fitting goal since the culmination of your four years here in May of 2027 will be a diploma that you receive solely because of your class performance. I am not the kind of person who hides in my dorm and only does my work. I do not want to be misconstrued as telling you never to have fun and never see outside the bound cover of a book. In the same way that man cannot live on bread alone, the Hampden-Sydney man cannot eat, sleep, and breathe classwork. I was being excoriated for doing too much, after all. There are more clubs and organizations on this campus than I know the names of, and every single one of them wants you to get involved. I know I want to see many of you participating in all of the things that I care about here. Go out and join the club. Give the speech. Join the fraternity. Almost all of it will be worth your time. That same time is precious, though, and try not to let it slip away by doing too much. No one benefits from burnout, and it's very easy to work yourself to that point. Prioritization will be one of the most important skills you'll have to learn. Guys who don't learn it tend not to have a great time. You've stepped onto a very special campus, and I hope all of you find your niche and love it just as much as I do. Last year when I wrote this letter to the Class of 2026, I wasn't staring down the barrel of May 11, 2024, like I am now. If I could, I would go back and put myself exactly where you are now and do it all over again. Don't drink away your time here, but also don't work away your time here. Find the things that matter, prioritize what matters the most as a college student, and cherish every moment. You'll look back and wonder where it all went. Welcome to the Hill, Class of 2027.

HAYNES, CONT'D

ly. You may break into the first social group you find or you may struggle to find friends at all. If you heed my advice, the experience of Hampden-Sydney may become all the more enjoyable and fulfilling. I am not here to pave your path for you; you must find your own destiny on this hill. However, I hope to have marked the trailhead on which your journey shall begin. Discover what makes you happy and discover who makes you happy. The path to self-fulfillment awaits you.

HISTORY CORNER, CONT'D

later another Japanese submarine would attempt a similar attack, this time on the Civil War-era Fort Stevens in Oregon. On the night of June 21, 1942, the I-25 would fire 17 rounds at the fort. The fort's commander ordered his men not to fire back, as he thought that muzzle flashes from the guns would only better reveal his position to the Japanese submarine. His judgment proved correct, and little damage was done to the fort. The submarine then disappeared back into the waters of the Pacific. This same submarine would return a few months later on September 9, 1942, and would proceed to launch a seaplane towards the U.S. During the so-called "Lookout Air Raids" the plane would drop two incendiary bombs with which it hoped to start a forest fire. While both bombs were dropped, they did not have their intended effect and the fires were put out soon thereafter, thanks to the help of a fire look-

RHETORIC STUDIO, CONT'D

Code of Conduct and Honor Code ensure this. **"The Hampden-Sydney student will behave as a gentleman at all times and in all places."** The easiest way to do that is to **"not lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate those who do."** There is no excuse to lie to a professor, cheat on an assignment, or steal someone else's work when you have the most fun four years of your life ahead of you. Rhetoric Studio Consultations give you the tools to succeed in any communication project from any department within the College. Don't let this resource go to waste, keep in mind that the burden is on you to do the work, and you will find that your communication skills will flourish as a result.

TUCKER THOUGHTS:

TikTok is Not Your Friend

JEB TUCKER '26
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

I am not the first to say welcome, Class of 2027, and I will not be the last. You're going to be subjected to a whirlwind of information and advice as you progress through your freshman year, which you may obey and disobey at your leisure, and I would like to make a humble addition: be wary of short form content. I am not telling you to wipe social media from your phone—in fact, your Instagram account will receive something of a boost from your new community. I am telling you that Shorts, Reels, and TikToks are false friends when you've got a midnight deadline. My workflow over the '22-'23 school year was

more interrupted than ever, because I developed a near reliance on Instagram Reels. I've opened the app already as I write this column. Everybody's different when they enter their working mode—you may not be as vulnerable to distraction as I am; you may not have ADHD. But neither do all the people I see in Bortz Library hunched over their phones with their open laptops having gone to sleep in their distraction. Make sure you look out for yourself. The apps haven't made it any easier, either—the YouTube app opens immediately to its Shorts feature and short-form content is never more than a tap away. If you pick up your phone, you're running a high risk of getting sucked in.

So what do we do? Well, you don't necessarily have to do anything. If you trust your focus and ability to work in crunch time, you're in the clear. Just keep an eye on it. If you struggle, keep an eye on it extra hard. Work near your friends and they'll keep you honest—Bortz Library is a good place. If you're chronically unable to focus, you can buy a productivity safe and lock your phone away for hours at a time. The best advice I can give you is simply to start working. Put your hands on the keyboard and start typing. That is your best defense against your phone. You won't always succeed, and that's okay. E-mail your professor if you're turning something in late. Good luck, Godspeed, and Roll Tigers.